



HARVARD COLLEGE

Dean of Students Office

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

July 2019

Dear Members of the Class of 2023:

Welcome to Harvard College!

Let me introduce myself: I am the Resident Dean for Elm Yard, which comprises Matthews, Grays, and Weld dormitories. I will serve as your academic and residential dean this year. This means that I am on hand to help you and your immediate advisers (proctors, academic advisers, coaches, peer advising fellows, professors, etc.) sort out any academic or residential questions that may arise during your first year at Harvard. You can reach me at the First-Year Experience Office, where I am available to meet with you throughout your time in the Harvard community.

The rest of the staff here at the College and I are very much looking forward to your arrival. This event marks an important transition for you and all your classmates. In addition to embarking on an interesting and challenging course of study, you will be living in a unique and exciting residential community. You will also be responsible for your own choices and actions in a way most of you have never been before. I am confident that you can have the resilience to weather the inevitable bumps in the road and grow personally as well as intellectually. To help you make that transition, you have been assigned to one of the resident proctors in Elm Yard. Harvard proctors are graduate students and university administrators who live in the dorms with you and conduct advising sessions on academic, personal and residential matters. Essentially, they are friendly adults whom I trust you will get to know and respect over the course of your year together. Their primary role, along with your peer advisers, is to help create a warm and welcoming home for you this upcoming year.

Of course, your classmates and roommates will likely play an even more significant part in your first-year experience. Harvard College believes strongly in the educational impact of our residential community, which is largely why I and the other Resident Yard Deans have spent the summer carefully building suites and entryways that will reflect the remarkable diversity and strengths of the Class of 2023. You should have received your room assignment and the names of your roommates. Please recognize the importance of arriving with an open mind and a willingness to work collaboratively with the people you will meet. They, like you, are talented and remarkable and will contribute greatly to the quality of your experience in the Harvard community. Enjoy getting to know them.

Thank you for keeping all of this in mind as you complete your plans for your arrival in the fall.

Once again, welcome, and best wishes for a rewarding and productive year. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Jasmine M. Waddell, Ph.D.
Resident Dean of Elm Yard
Harvard College